

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 L-03

FRB-01 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-15 AGRE-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02

SIL-01 STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 ARA-14 NEA-10

/149 W

-----007495 072050Z /64

R 071838Z MAR 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6894

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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BANGKOK FOR ESCAPE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, EFIN

SUBJECT: UNCTAD TDB MINISTERIAL GROUP B STATEMENT

REF: GENEVA 3535

THERE FOLLOWS INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT MADE BY FRANCE ON  
BEHALF OF GROUP B AT THE NINTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE  
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

1. IN THE NAME OF THE GROUP OF COUNTRIES FOR WHICH I AM  
SPOKESMAN, I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN THIS BRIEF INTRODUCTORY  
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STATEMENT BY JOINING OTHER SPEAKERS IN EXPRESSING OUR  
PROFOUND THANKS TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD, MR.  
COREA, FOR HIS STATEMENT, TO WHICH WE HAVE LISTENED WITH  
CLOSE ATTENTION. WE HAVE ALSO LISTENED MOST CAREFULLY  
TO THE STATEMENT MADE BY MR. KAWATA BWALUM, MINISTER OF  
TRADE OF ZAIRE, ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF SEVENTY-SEVEN.

2. DURING THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR THIS SESSION, THE GROUP B COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS ATTACH TO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INDEBTEDNESS AND DEVELOPMENT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, ON THE OCCASION OF THIS MEETING OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNTRIES FOR WHICH I AM SPOKESMAN HAVE ASKED ME TO REITERATE THEIR WISH TO PURSUE THE DIALOGUE ON THE QUESTION OF INDEBTEDNESS, AS WELL AS ON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

3. BEFORE DEVELOPING FURTHER OUR GENERAL POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF THE INDEBTEDNESS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, I WOULD LIKE TO RECALL BRIEFLY DEVELOPMENTS OVER MORE THAN TWO YEARS OF DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION ON THIS QUESTION.

4. UNCTAD IV, AT NAIROBI, MARKED A FIRST IMPORTANT STAGE IN DISCUSSIONS ON THIS QUESTION AND RESOLUTION 94 OF THIS CONFERENCE HAS PROVIDED US WITH AN OUTLINE FOR WORK AND FOR REFLECTION. THIS OUTLINE WAS FIRST PUT TO THE TEST AT THE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION, WHICH DEVOTED LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS TO THIS QUESTION. ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT AT THE PARIS CONFERENCE, ALL PARTICIPANTS CONSIDERED THAT THE

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WORK UNDERTAKEN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CIEC CONSTITUTED A USEFUL BASIS FOR WORK TO BE PURSUED IN OTHER BODIES.

5. THE OTHER BODY HAS BEEN THE UNCTAD: ON THE ONE HAND, THIS ORGANIZATION'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS WHICH MET TWICE LAST YEAR AND ON THE OTHER HAND, THE TWO SESSIONS OF THIS BOARD WHICH HAVE BEEN HELD AT THE LEVEL OF SENIOR OFFICIALS.

6. THERE HAVE THUS BEEN LENGTHY PREPARATIONS FOR OUR MEETING THIS WEEK AND I WOULD LIKE TO SUMMARISE BRIEFLY THE COMMON POSITION OF THE GROUP B COUNTRIES AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS PREPARATORY PHASE:

(A) THE INDEBTEDNESS PROBLEM OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS NEITHER GENERALIZED NOR UNMANAGEABLE AND THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM HAS SO FAR REACTED POSITIVELY TO ATTENUATE SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF INDEBTEDNESS AND TO FIND CONCRETE SOLUTIONS IN THE CASE OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES FACING DIFFICULTIES IN MEETING THEIR DEBT SERVICE. IN THIS REGARD, THE GROUP B COUNTRIES RECOGNIZE THE PERTINENCE AND THE VALUE OF THE PROPOSALS OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND

THE UNITED STATES, AND BELIEVE THEY DESERVE SERIOUS  
CONSIDERATION.

(B) THE REAL PROBLEM WITH WHICH MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
ARE CONFRONTED IS A RESOURCE TRANSFER PROBLEM AND NOT A  
GENERALISED PROBLEM OF INDEBTEDNESS; IN THIS REGARD, IT  
MAY BE RECALLED THAT THE SPECIAL ACTION PROGRAMME AN-  
NOUNCED AT THE CIEC FORMS PART OF THE EFFORTS OF THE  
GROUP B COUNTRIES TO HELP THE INDIVIDUAL LOW INCOME  
COUNTRIES TO MEET THEIR IMMEDIATE NEEDS FOR ADDITIONAL  
AID.

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7. AS REGARDS THE PROBLEMS OF THE LEAST DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES, MR. PRESIDENT, THESE ARE OF A MORE GENERAL  
DEVELOPMENT NATURE: THESE COUNTRIES HAVE A SPECIAL NEED  
FOR RESOURCE TRANSFERS IN APPROPRIATE FORMS AND ON  
HIGHLY CONCESSIONAL TERMS.

8. TO SUM UP, MR. PRESIDENT, CREDITORS AND DEBTORS HAVE

AN INTEREST IN FORESTALLING AND RESOLVING, IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' PROBLEMS OF INDEBTEDNESS. THIS IS WHY THE COUNTRIES OF MY GROUP WISH TO CONTINUE MULTILATERAL CO-OPERATION WITH A VIEW TO ACTING RAPIDLY TO COME TO THE ASSISTANCE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FACED WITH PROBLEMS OF INDEBTEDNESS AND TO

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CONTRIBUTE CONSTRUCTIVELY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THIS FIELD.

9. IT IS IN THIS OPEN AND CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT WE APPROACH THIS MEETING OF THE BOARD AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, WHICH WE CONSIDER AS BEING AN IMPORTANT STAGE IN INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND WHICH, WE HOPE, WILL REPRESENT A FURTHER STEP IN THE DIRECTION OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING ON THE QUESTION OF DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT.

MR. PRESIDENT, THIS GENERAL INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT, MADE ON BEHALF OF GROUP B, WILL BE COMPLEMENTED BY MORE DETAILED STATEMENTS BY OTHER COUNTRIES, OR GROUPINGS, OF THE GROUP. UNQUOTE. SORENSON

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## Message Attributes

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Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014